

October 7, 2011

Dear Parent(s),

What a beautiful week it has been, fall is such a great season! We all have our fingers crossed that the weather will be this beautiful on Thursday of next week for our **field trip to Retzer Nature Center**. We will be leaving school that day at 9:00 a.m and returning at 12:30 p.m. Your child will need a bag lunch that day and will also need to dress for the weather and wear shoes that can get muddy! Thank you to all of the parents that will be joining us. This is a trip we cannot take without chaperones, so we appreciate your time.

Another thank you to the parents that participated in our first ever book club this past Tuesday. It was an enjoyable evening for teachers, parents, and the students. We hope you can join us for the next meeting of the minds on **Tuesday, December 6<sup>th</sup> from 7:00-8:00 p.m.** Our next book will be Touching Spirit Bear by Ben Mikaelson. We have enough copies for everyone, so please let your child's homeroom teacher know if you are interested in getting a copy.

As Halloween approaches please note that **we do not wear costumes** to school in 6<sup>th</sup> grade or have a Halloween party. However we have been told that the school dance on November 4<sup>th</sup> from 6:30-8:30 p.m. will be a Halloween dance and kids are encouraged to wear costumes.

There are also several other whole school programs happening that your child may have mentioned. The National Junior Honor Society is collecting items to put together **holiday boxes for our troops**. They are asking 6<sup>th</sup> graders to donate the following items: baby wipes, conditioner, eye drops, beef sticks, and AT&T calling cards. We are also looking for families to sponsor a box for \$15.00 to cover shipping costs. If you know of a specific soldier that could be on the receiving end of one of our gift boxes please contact Jill Jones at [jill.jones@mail.oasd.k12.wi.us](mailto:jill.jones@mail.oasd.k12.wi.us) Another all school event is **The Streak**. Actually this is a reading incentive program that is being implemented at the high school, Silver Lake and Nature Hill. We are asking parents to pledge to read for 10 minutes with their children for 100 days straight. At the end there will be a pancake breakfast celebration for all families that meet the challenge.

On **October 14<sup>th</sup>** Team Silver is planning one of our own special reading events and we will be having a **read-in day!** We are cancelling all other classes (not specials) to read, read, read! We will have a portion of time dedicated to non-fiction reading, buddy reading, flashlight reading, teacher read-aloud, and at the end of the day we will offer to the kids a choice of three different movies that are based on books. Throughout the day teachers will be reading with individual students to assess reading levels. We are hoping that by dedicating an entire day to reading we can make sure all students are on target to meet their reading goals this quarter and teachers will have an opportunity to work individually with each student. Your child can wear their comfy clothes and bring a pillow to make moving around the room and sitting in different areas more comfortable.

It is district policy that we give **parent notification when showing movies** to students that are rated PG or PG-13 in class. We must notify you in advance and give you the opportunity to pull your child out of the movie if you have any objections. On the day of our read-in we will be offering students the choice to watch one of the following: Shiloh,

Diary of a Wimpy Kid, or Bridge to Terabithia. In addition at the end of the quarter, we would like to end our Astronomy unit by watching the movie Apollo 13 with all students. If you have any objection to these movies please notify your child's homeroom teacher. *If we do not hear from you we assume that permission is granted.*

Here are the subject area updates: (Please note that on October 17<sup>th</sup> students that were in Social Studies will switch to Science and vice versa. We also start new explore classes on Monday, October 10.)

**Math:** We are in the middle of Unit 2 which focuses on decimals and scientific notation. This week we are multiplying and dividing with decimals. We will finish the unit next week and anticipate a test on October 18<sup>th</sup>.

**Reading:** We have been building partnerships to talk about books. This week we also focused on writing comments that encourage discussion and demonstrate understanding of text. We will begin our unit on characters next week as we continue to explore ways to write about reading.

**Writing:** All classes completed their personal narrative this week. We will celebrate the stories at our read-in next week and give other students a chance to read some of the great stories authored by our very own. Our next writing unit will be a realistic fiction story.

**Social Studies:** We are finishing our unit of the first civilizations and our test was today. Next week the students will work on group choice projects to show their knowledge of these civilizations. We will also be discussing our GPS skills to prepare for our field trip.

**Science:** We have learned all about the moon phases and how to determine if the moon is waxing (getting bigger) or waning (getting smaller). We also learned the difference between a solar and lunar eclipse. This week we focused on the energy that the sun gives off and what we know about sunspots and how they impact us on earth.

### **Upcoming Events:**

October 13	Field trip to Retzer Nature Center – need a bag lunch
October 10	New EXPLORE classes begin
October 14	Team Silver Read-In Day
October 20,24,25	Parent Teacher Conferences
October 26-28	No school
November 4	End of 1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter; Halloween dance 6:30-8:30 p.m.